

Emergency Services? Disaster Relief? Homeland Security?

What Should We Do?

Many people have asked what to do to get ready for our homeland security (HS) missions. The answer right now is that we aren't sure. We don't know what the mission is going to be, or what specifically we will need to get ready for it. Right now, preparations for HS and DR type missions seem to be very similar, and give us an opportunity for service to our communities.

Until we get guidance on the HS mission, we can all get general training that is useful for all emergency services - SAR, Disaster Relief, and HS. If you aren't ES qualified, it's time to get started. Study the general ES training program available on the wing web site, and take the ES test (both parts) on the National web site. Get a General ES (GES) card, and find a specialty to train for. Participate in local and group training activities, and get the specific training for specific specialties, and upgrade.

Other, non-CAP related training that might be useful (and certainly won't hurt)

- Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), available from your local community fire department or emergency management agency.
- First Aid and CPR, from the Red Cross, community colleges or other sources. Once you have the first aid training, make your own first aid kits for home, vehicles, office, airplane, boat, etc.
- FEMA Home-Study Courses, which are free, you can register on-line at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/crslist.htm>

Some courses in particular that might be useful include:

- IS-2 Emergency Preparedness, USA
- IS-3 Radiological Emergency Management
- IS-5 Hazardous Materials: A Citizen's Orientation
- IS-301 Radiological Emergency Response

FEMA has many other courses that might be of interest to you, and they're all free.

- American Red Cross disaster courses, available from your local Red Cross chapter:
 - Intro to Disaster
 - Mass Care
 - Damage Assessment

Other things you should do to get ready are to get yourself, your family and your home ready. Get yourself prepared for a disaster, plan on being self-sufficient for at least 72 hours if not longer. Keep fresh water, storable food (and a manual can opener), a battery powered radio, flashlights, spare batteries, etc. on hand. FEMA has a document listing more supplies at <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/fdsk.pdf>. Don't forget your pets!

How's your health? You may want to check your immunizations for tetanus and all the other usual diseases. Keep a sufficient supply of any medication that you or your family need on hand too.

As soon as we here what specific training is needed, we'll let you know. For more information about Homeland security, ask your unit or group Homeland Security Officer, or the Wing Homeland Security Officer, Steve Huss. For questions about ES training in general, or disaster training in particular, ask your unit or group ES officers, or Rick de Castro, the Wing Director of ES Training and Disaster Relief Director.